

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please cancel Claim 3, amend Claim 1, 5-9, 12-14, 18, 19, and 27, and add new Claims 28 and 29 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
conveying means for conveying an original;  
reading means for optically reading the information recorded in the conveyed original at a reading location; and  
an original pressing-means member having a surface opposed to said reading means for pressing the original to said reading means; ~~and, wherein said original pressing member includes~~ a color reference member used as a color reference at the time when said information is read by said reading means, and ~~wherein said color reference member is arranged between said reading means and said original pressing means, and said original pressing-means member~~ is inclined and disposed such that an upstream end portion or a downstream end portion of said opposed surface is in contact with said reading means ~~respectfully~~ respectively at an upstream side or a downstream side of said reading location, and the opposite end portion of said opposed surface is separated from said reading means by a predetermined distance.

2. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a contacting portion and a regulating portion, wherein said original pressing-means member is positioned by disposing said contacting portion at a downstream side of said original pressing-means member and in contact with the regulating portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said regulating portion is a portion configured in a planar form,  
and said regulating portion is configured by the surface of the original conveying direction downstream side of a bent portion bent in the opposite direction against said reading means in the original conveying direction downstream side of said original pressing ~~means~~ member.

7. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the reading surface of said reading means is disposed inclined with the original conveying direction upstream side, and  
the image reading apparatus is configured in such manner that said regulating portion contacts said contacting portion by the dead load of said original pressing ~~means~~ member.

8. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said bent portion is bent approximately vertically, and  
said regulating portion is set so as to make an acute angle with the reading surface of said reading means.

9. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising compressing means for compressing said original pressing ~~means~~ member to said reading means.

10. - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

conveying means for conveying an original;  
reading means for optically reading the information recorded in the conveyed original at a reading location;  
an original pressing~~means~~ member for pressing the original to said reading means; and  
a color reference member used as a color reference at the time when said information is read by said reading means, wherein said color reference member is arranged between said reading means and said original pressing~~means~~ member, and wherein a pressing location of said original pressing~~means~~ member is disposed only at a downstream side and at an upstream side of said reading location.

13. (Currently Amended) The original reading apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the shape of said original pressing~~means~~ member in said reading location is in the shape recessed from said pressing location.

14. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising compressing means for compressing said original pressing means member to said reading means.

15. - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the reading surface of said reading means is disposed inclined with the original conveying direction upstream side, and

the image reading apparatus is configured in such manner that said regulating portion contacts said contacting portion by the dead load of said original pressing ~~means~~ member.

19. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said original pressing ~~means~~ member is movably engaged with the image reading apparatus via said color reference member disposed in said opposed surface.

20. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended)

An image reading apparatus according to any one of claims 1, 3, 5-9, 12-14, 18, and 19, and further comprising;

sheet conveying means for conveying sheets; and

image forming means for forming an image on the conveyed sheets.

28. (New) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a feeding roller;

an image sensor, which optically reads information recorded in an original fed by said feeding roller at a reading location;

an original pressing member having a surface opposed to said image sensor; and

a color reference member arranged between said image sensor and said original pressing member,

wherein said original pressing member is inclined and an upstream end portion or a downstream end portion of said opposed surface is pressed against said

image sensor through said color reference member respectively at an upstream side or a downstream side of said reading location, and the opposite end portion of said opposed surface is separated from said image sensor by a predetermined distance.

29. (New) An image reading apparatus, comprising:
- a feeding roller at a reading location;
  - an image sensor, which optically reads information recorded in an original fed by said feeding roller at a reading location;
  - an original pressing member; and
  - a color reference member arranged between said image sensor and said original pressing member,
- wherein a pressing location of said original pressing member is disposed only at a downstream side and at an upstream side of said reading location.